



ILLINOIS HOMELAND SECURITY UPDATE February 8, 2002

George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR

Matt Bettenhausen
Homeland Security Director

! Governor George H. Ryan announced a series of 17 regional Homeland Security Workshops that began this week and will culminate in a Statewide Homeland Security Summit in Springfield this May. "These new workshops will build on the 16 regional workshops we offered this past November and December," Governor Ryan said. "The goal of these new workshops is to help local and regional officials plan and identify actions that can be taken to improve public safety, homeland security, and anti-terrorism efforts throughout Illinois."

The workshops are a cooperative effort of members of the Illinois Terrorism Task Force, created by Governor Ryan in May of 2000. The University of Illinois is sponsoring the workshops and there will be no cost for participants.

The workshops will bring together elected officials and key-decision makers including representatives of local, state and federal agencies; law enforcement, fire service, emergency management, public health, education, transportation and other public services as well as members of the private sector.

"Homeland Security is something we must continually strive to improve," Governor Ryan said. "These workshops will add to the thousands of hours of training and preparation we've been able to supply first-responders through the Illinois Terrorism Task Force."

"These seminars are being conducted to ensure that Illinois communities are safer and better prepared to deal with any act of terrorism or natural disaster," said Illinois Homeland Security Director Matt Bettenhausen. "The importance of coordinating state and federal actions with first-

responders was clearly demonstrated by the tragic events of September 11th."

Following the regional workshop, a Statewide Homeland Security Summit will be held May 20-21, 2002, at the University of Illinois at Springfield. The goal of the two-day summit will be to develop a set of key conclusions and action plans from the workshop process. Key individuals from the participating workshop groups will be invited to the Statewide Summit.

The workshops will be conducted around the state in five regional "clusters" at the following locations and specific dates:

<u>Region</u>	<u>City and Date</u>
Southern	Benton - 2/4; Carbondale - 2/5; Effingham - 2/6
Chicago	Aurora - 2/26; Rockford - 2/27; Tinley Park - 2/28
Central	Bloomington - 3/18; Peoria - 3/19; Champaign - 3/21; Springfield - 3/20; Ottawa - 5/10
Southwestern	Collinsville - 4/25; Quincy - 4/26
Western	Galesburg - 5/6; Dixon - 5/7; Macomb - 5/8; East Moline - 5/9

For more information visit the Illinois Fire Service Institute's website at www.fsi.uiuc.edu/hspw/index.html.

! The Clackamas County, Oregon, District Attorney's Office reported the receipt of an alert advisory from the Internal Revenue Service regarding the use of an Internet web site by criminals to obtain the Social Security Number of private citizens. Persons who wish to delete their inclusion in this website's data base are encouraged to access www.anybirthday.com and follow the on-screen prompts to search the site. Citizens who find their name and date of birth may follow these steps to delete the information:

- make a note of the zip code associated with the record;
- click on the "FAQ" (frequently asked questions) button;
- click on the "privacy statement" button to "opt out" the data from the system;
- click on the "opt out option" link and follow the directions for the input screen which will appear;
- after completing that screen, click on the "remove from the database" button and the data will be deleted from the system.

! The following is the fourth in a series of practical tips offered by the U. S. State Department on how private citizens can contribute to the fight against terrorism by using their observation skills.

This installment focuses on persons who process financial transactions.

"Terrorists often lack conventional banking relationships. They frequently depend on funds transferred by wire or money order and often use a variety of different financial institutions or agencies to obtain cash. Terrorists often generate credit card profiles that bear little resemblance to conventional consumer purchasing profiles."

"Anyone working in the financial or banking industry who discovers suspicious financial transactions which may be linked to a terrorist should immediately contact law enforcement officials to report this activity."

! The U.S. Fire Administration and the Federal Emergency Management Agency are supporting free workshops on the 2002 \$360 million Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. Interested fire department representatives are invited to attend. The purpose of the workshops is to explain the 2002 grant program and answer questions. General assistance in the writing of a competitive narrative for a department's grant application will also be discussed.

The following workshops are scheduled in Illinois:

February 9	Great Lakes Division, IAFC, Prairie State College 202 S. Halsted Street, Chicago Heights 10 AM - 4 PM Chief Wilcox, Matteson FD (708) 748-5196
February 21	Illinois Fire Chief's Association & Hinsdale Fire Department Empress Restaurant, 200 East Lake Street, Addison 9 AM - 12 PM Pat Kenny (630) 789-7069 pkenny@vil.hinsdale.il.us
February 23	Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts, Cherry Valley Regional Training Center, 4919 Blackhawk Road, Rockford 10 AM. - 12 PM (Recipients of grants awarded last year) 1:30 - 4 PM (Applying for 2002 grant) Rose Trader (800) 524-6620 IAFPD@warpnet.net
February 25	IL Fire Service Institute, Kaskaskia Community College 27210 College Road, Centralia Bill Farnum (217) 333-0660 w-farnum@uiuc.edu
February 25	Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts, Salem Fire Department 203 South Broadway, Salem 7 - 10 PM Rose Trader (800) 524-6620 IAFPD@warpnet.net
March 2	IL Association of Fire Protection Districts, 275 West Main Street, Braidwood 1:30 - 4 PM Rose Trader 800-524-6620 IAFPD@warpnet.net

! The Illinois Terrorism Task Force approved the creation of an Aviation Subcommittee sponsored by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Division of Aeronautics. The Division has appointed the first three members of the committee, Don Gamble from the Division of Aeronautics, Dr. David Newyer of the Illinois Board of Aeronautical Advisors, and Neil Pobanz, Marshall County Airport Manager. The subcommittee will meeting will be held next week to discuss organizational ideas, objectives, and the creation of an advisory panel for aviation issues. The Division of Aeronautics continues to make inspections at selected airports. Airport managers are being reminded to be vigilant as to suspicious personnel and/or operations at their facility.

! At the request of local officials, a forum on homeland security is being organized for February 13 in Ottawa. The Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (IDNS) and Exelon and will discuss emergency preparedness for the LaSalle nuclear power station. IDNS and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) are evaluating changes to emergency classification levels proposed by Exelon for the six nuclear sites in Illinois to determine if the revisions comply with state safety requirements. Several proposals to upgrade the Nuclear Accident Reporting System (NARS) have been proposed by Exelon and are under technical review. The NARS system is used to alert offsite authorities when an emergency situation occurs at any of the power plants.

! The Department of Agriculture has completed its county fairground survey. The information was prepared in the event of an emergency or disaster situation which will require the use of a recovery or staging area for emergency personnel and equipment. A questionnaire was developed requesting information regarding facilities at fairground locations throughout the State. A total of 105 questionnaires were distributed with 86 responses.

! The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has hosted several weekly meetings of the Public Information Committee of the Terrorism Task Force. The committee membership has expanded

and includes: OSFM, National Guard, Red Cross, Illinois Education Association, Regional School Superintendents, Archer Daniels Midland (private sector), and Save-a-Life Foundation. The Governor's Information Technology staff are sharing valuable expertise in the discussion of the various technologies that will be utilized in the future to disseminate emergency and preparedness information to the public and first responders. They include not only radio, television, and newspapers, but also video conferencing, internet conferencing, and other capabilities including the Illinois Century Network.

! OSFM is meeting with various state agencies and the Governor's Office of Technology to study communications needs and plans to integrate with the STARCOM network. Plans are also being finalized for providing computers to the fire service to link in times of emergencies and aid in a comprehensive program to integrate emergency planning, resources, mapping, public information, and the many other target goals of the system. A final plan will be developed in the near future.

! The American Red Cross met with representatives of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to review procedures for responding to disasters where orphaned children are at disaster shelters and other service locations, and to discuss emergency child care procedures, disasters involving wards of the state, and rules governing evacuation plans and emergency procedures for day care centers. Also discussed was the feasibility of checking spontaneous volunteers and other selected response personnel through the State's Child Abuse and Neglect System. DCFS will develop an enhanced emergency communications plan to notify key DCFS staff as well.

! On January 31, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Secretary Tommy G. Thompson sent letters to governors detailing how much each state will receive of the \$1.1 billion to help strengthen their state's capacity to respond to bioterrorism and other public health

emergencies resulting from terrorism. The money will allow states to begin planning and building the public health systems necessary to respond. The funds will be used to develop comprehensive bioterrorism preparedness plans, upgrade infectious disease surveillance and investigation, enhance the readiness of hospital systems to deal with large numbers of casualties, expand public health laboratory and communications capacities, and improve connectivity between hospitals and city, local, and state health departments to enhance disease reporting.

The funding comes from a \$2.9 billion bioterrorism appropriation bill that President Bush signed into law January 10. The State of Illinois is scheduled to receive \$36.5 million for bioterrorism preparedness from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and \$5.7 million to create regional hospital plans for a total of \$42.2 million.

! The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has reviewed and approved the American Red Cross' (ARC) Disaster Health Services Protocols. The purpose of the protocols is to describe the parameters within which licensed professionals may deliver medical/nursing care when serving as Disaster Health Services (DHS) staff on an American Red Cross disaster relief operation. DHS provides emergency and preventative health services to people affected by disaster and to ARC staff assigned to a disaster relief operation. A medical advisor to IDPH reviewed the protocols to ensure they meet current medical/nursing, public health, and first aid standards of practice within the state.

! As of February 5, IDPH Springfield and Chicago laboratories have processed 1,595 samples. All have been negative for anthrax. All backlog samples have been processed.